

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 2 has been amended as follows:**

The sector unit and the sector drive unit are characterized by being provided with a unit structure that is removably mountable to each other via the support plate, the base plate and fixing members. Since the sector drive unit of the present invention has a ~~sectors~~ sector unit and a sector drive ~~mechanism~~ unit which are separately manufactured as separate unit structures, ease of manufacture and compatibility are improved. When the sector drive unit is employed as a sector drive unit for a light-shielding device for protecting the image pickup device of a digital camera, a light-shielding curtain is reliably opened during an exposure operation and closes the aperture for reliably protecting the image pickup device during the period when exposure is not performed.

Paragraph beginning at line 18 of page 7 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view showing the respective mechanisms, including the sector drive unit D and the sector unit U, in a separated or partially exploded manner. The drive mechanism of the sector drive unit D includes the actuator 4 and the synchronous switch 5, which are fixed via the intermediate member 6, which is opposed to and detachably mounted to the rear surface of the support plate 3. The printed circuit board P is fixed to the upper surface of the support plate 3. The support plate 3 includes a bottom plate member 3a formed of a rectangular plate member (See Fig. 1), and latch devices 3b, 3b for removably retaining the intermediate member 6 at both ends thereof. The intermediate member 6 ~~can retain~~ retains the actuator 4 and the synchronous switch 5 in predetermined positions between the support plate 3 and the intermediate member 6, and the intermediate member 6 ~~and~~ is provided with mounting portions 6f, 6g that are removably mountable to the base plate 1. Since the sector drive unit D is thus configured as an independent unit which can easily be attached to and detached from the base plate 1, it can be mounted to various sector units.